



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

#### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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#### WHALING COMMISSION MEETS IN LONDON, DR. H. J. DEASON SAILS AS U.S. DELEGATE

The U.S. delegation to the first meeting of the International Whaling Commission in London sailed today from New York City aboard the Queen Mary, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service disclosed today.

The delegation consists of Dr. Remington Kellogg, director of the U.S. National Museum, who will be chairman; Dr. Hilary J. Deason, chief of the Fish and Wildlife Service's Office of Foreign Activities; and Charles I. Bevans, Department of State.

The Commission will meet May 30 to adopt by-laws, select permanent headquarters, appoint a permanent secretariat, and discuss changes in current international whaling regulations.

Established in December 1946, when 21 nations signed the International Whaling Agreement, in Washington, D. C., the Commission will coordinate scientific research on whales and regulate whaling activities throughout the world. Twelve nations have now ratified the International Whaling Agreement, which became effective November 10, 1948.

The current international whaling regulations are part of the 1946 treaty. Biologists believe that the regulations are too liberal. They say the world's stock of whales is still dangerously low, and will consider revisions of the current regulations at the London meeting.

The current regulations set an annual quota of 16,000 blue whale units for all factory ships operating in the Antarctic Ocean. According to the international regulatory formula, one blue whale is equivalent to two fin whales, or two-and-a-half humpbacked whales, or six sei whales.

Norway, Great Britain, Japan, and the Soviet Union are the world's foremost whaling nations. The United States, which was once the principal whaling country, now has only one shore station, at Eureka, Calif. The establishment of a whaling station in Maine is now being considered by private interests. No U.S. factory ships have worked in the Antarctic since 1940.

The chief product derived from whales is oil used for soap and edible fats. Sperm whale oil is used industrially as a lubricant and as a base for cosmetics.

Before returning to this country, the U.S. delegation to the International Whaling Commission meeting will visit the British Antarctic whaling fleet in Edinburgh, Scotland, the Fish and Wildlife Service announced. Dr. Deason, a member of the delegation, recently returned from an inspection of the Service's Philippine Fishery Program, and from the inaugural meeting of the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council in Singapore, where he was an adviser to the U.S. delegate.

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